extent of 9.05 lakh tonnes during the period April' 91 to January '92 against the linkage of 9.4 lakh tonnes. Central Electricity Authority have confirmed that this power station had comfortable stock of coal throughout the year, and there was no loss of generation either for want of coal, or because of inadequate linkage of coal.

New coal mines to supply beneficiated coal

2316. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed all new coal mines to supply beneficiated coal in view of environmental consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such type of coal would be supplied to the Thermal Power Stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d) An Expert Committee set up by the Government had recommended use of beneficiated coal in new thermal power stations located more than 1000 Kms. away from the coalfields. This Committee had opined that use of beneficiated coal by such distant power stations would be more beneficial for them from the point of view of lower transport cost, higher generation and better plant performance etc. Accordingly it has been decided to set up pithead coal beneficiation plant for power grade coal. One such plant is under construction at Piparwar in CCL. Another such beneficiation plant is proposed at Kalinga in Talcher coalfield, Orissa.

Since ash content of beneficiated coal is lower than that of raw coal, quantity of ash to be handled at the power plant gets reduced and as such pollution is correspondingly less.

Shortage of stocks of Coal

2317. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stocks of coal with the thermal power houses in the North and West India are low;

(b) if so, the unit-wise break up of coal stocks as on date in these regions and for how many days these stocks should be sufficient;

(c) what are the reasons for shortage of stocks; and

(d) what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Information received from Central Electricity Authority regarding stocks as on 6-3-92 at various thermal power stations in Northern and Western regions of the country is given in the statement. (*See* below) It would be seen from the statement that coal stock at 9 out of 17 power stations in the Northern region and 10 out of 18 power stations in the Western region are less than 7 days requirement. The despatches of coal to power sector from Coal India Ltd. and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. during the period April '91 to January '92 have been of the order of 112.13 million tonnes (including middlings) as against the supply of 97.67 million tonnes (including middlings) during the corresponding period last year, showing a growth of 14.8 percent. Although, the despatches have been higher during the current year, some power houses have less coal stocks due to transport constraints because of which although supplies of coal to them are adequate for daily generation but no surplus is left for stock-building. In other power stations stocks are not building up because they are generating more than their targets.

(d) Coal supplies to power houses are continuously monitored and immediate corrective steps are taken wherever necessary.